

# South Carolina is Just Right for Automotive



## South Carolina's Automotive Industry is Racing Ahead

Home to more than 250 automotive-related companies and suppliers that employ over 45,000 people. South Carolina has a strong, rapidly growing automotive industry with world-wide brands such as BMW, Michelin, Bridgestone and Continental in the region.



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# The Automotive Industry: Fueling South Carolina’s Economy

Representing over 5% of the State’s employment base, the automotive sector is an integral part of South Carolina’s economy. As a result, a wide range of companies supporting all aspects of automotive manufacturing—from assemblers, parts suppliers, and raw material producers—are based in South Carolina. Overall, South Carolina’s automotive cluster produces a total economic impact of over \$27 billion.

The best example of the growth of the state’s auto industry is BMW’s 2014 announcement of the planned \$1 billion expansion of their assembly plant in Greer, South Carolina. The addition of the new BMW X7 model and the plant’s increased production is expected to bring employment at the plant to 8,800. Since beginning operation in 1992, BMW has produced over 2.6 million vehicles in SC and has invested \$6.3 billion dollars into the state.

## What makes SC Just Right for Automotive?

- Home to more than 250 automotive-related companies and suppliers
- Has the 8th fastest growing labor force nationwide
- Ranks number one in exports of tires with 30% of the nation’s market share
- Ranks second in exports of gas turbines and automobiles to the world
- Automotive industry has quadrupled in two decades
- Has the 12th fastest growing economy in the nation and tied for the fastest growing state on the East Coast.

## The Automotive Industry: A Growing Sector

Since January 2011, companies in the automotive industry have announced almost \$5 billion in capital investment in South Carolina creating over 8,700 new jobs. The table below highlights a few of these recent announcements.

New and Expanding Automotive Facilities		
Company	Jobs	Capital Investment
Bridgestone Americas	850	\$1.2 Billion
BMW Manufacturing	800	\$1 Billion
Michelin North America	400	\$750 Million
Continental Tire	1,700	\$500 Million
JTEKT Automotive	250	\$230 Million
ZF Group	450	\$175 Million
Bosch Rexroth Corporation	160	\$80 Million
Gestamp South Carolina	100	\$51 Million
Drive Automotive	60	\$50 Million
Schaeffler Group	190	\$40 Million



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